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THE MONTHLY GULL BULLETIN

GOLDEN GATE AUDUBON SOCIETY INC.

Volume 49 Berkeley, Calif. November 1967 Number 11

HARRY ADAMSON'S VENEZUELA

Harry and Betty Adamson will show slides of their January-February trip to Venezuela with the Sierra Club at the Golden Gate Audubon meeting on **Thursday, November 9,** at the Rotary Natural Seience Center, Lakeside Park, Oakland. The Adamsons found many colorful birds in a variety of habitats in Venezuela, Guiana, and Surinam.

Harry C. Adamson, a well-known bird artist, reeently painted California Condors for the new Oakland Muscum.

The meeting will begin at **7:30 p.m.** and visitors are welcome. The Natural Science Center is on Bellevue at Perkins St. in Lakeside Park. A no-host dinner will begin at 6:30 at Lovely's Buffet, 336 Grand Avenue at Perkins.—MRS. PHYLLIS ZWEIGART, *Program Chairman.*

NOVEMBER FIELD TRIPS

Saturday, November 11, to Palo Alto Salt Marsh for waterfowl and shorebirds. Meet at **8:45 a.m.** at the duck pond across from the Palo Alto Yacht Harbor. To reach this area from Bayshore Freeway 101, take the Embarcadero Rd. Exit at Palo Alto. This Exit divides into East and West soon after leaving the freeway. Take Embarcadero Rd. East and follow it to the Palo Alto Yacht Harbor.

We plan to walk on the Nature Trail during high tide and then go on the boardwalk to see flocks of shorebirds on the outgoing tide. For an interesting description of the fauna and flora of this area see *Exploring Our Baylands* by Diane Conradson, a $2 paperback published by the Palo Alto Chamber of Commerce, 1966. Leader, Ted Chandik, 327-4575 (Palo Alto).

Tuesday, November 14, the above trip will be repeated, but a later tide requires a later meeting—**9:45.** Leader, Vi Homem, 655-8886.

Thanksgiving Weekend, November 23-26 to Tule Lake on the California-Oregon border. Enough birders have shown an interest in this trip to enable us to plan for it. To sign up for the trip, phone Mrs. Valeria DaCosta **before November 10.** (931-5257)

MRS. VALERIA G. DaCOSTA, *Field Trips Chairman.*

MEXICAN ADVENTURE WITH LYONS

Canadian naturalist-photographer C. P. Lyons will show **"Mexican Adventure,"** his outstanding new film, in Berkeley on **Monday, November 13,** as the second in the current season of Audubon Wildlife Films. Snow-cap-

ped peaks, smoking volcanos, deep canyons, jungles and beaches provide dramatic settings for this unusual field trip with "Chess" Lyons. Local inhabitants include the cactus wren, motmot, coatimundi, boa constrictor and many other fascinating animals of Mexico. Mr. Lyons also captures the interesting relationships of people and their land.

C. P. Lyons, an expert photographer, was born near Regina, Saskatchewan, but his family moved to British Columbia a few years later. He graduated from the University of British Columbia in Forest Engineering. In later years, his work with the Parks Division of the British Columbia Forest Service took him to many of the most scenic areas of the Province. He was so impressed with what he saw that he began writing about it. His published works include books on the historic Fraser Canyon, the Okanagan Valley and Vancouver Island, as well as *Trees, Shrubs, and Flowers to Know in B.C.*, now in its fourth printing. He also compiled a similar work on the State of Washington, and has been a frequent contributor to newspapers and magazines.

For over 20 years an officer in British Columbia's Department of Recreation and Conservation, Mr. Lyons has had wide experience in problems dealing with conservation. Many of today's large provincial parks were first examined by him, their boundaries set, and development plans prepared. The "Stops of Interest" program along the highways of British Columbia was his design and responsibility. For B.C. highways he also designed the grinning green goblins called "Garbage Gobblers"—unique and irresistible litter barrels, which children enjoy "feeding" and tourists like to photograph.

The restoration of the pioneer gold mining town of Barkerville in the Cariboo came under his direction from its start in 1958 until 1963 when he left government service to free-lance in photography and television. Summer months have been devoted to producing a series of television programs with an outdoor theme for the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation.

Mr. Lyons will present his colorful film, "Mexican Adventure," in the Garfield School Auditorium on Rose St. and Grant St. in Berkeley, at **8:15 p.m., November 13.** If you do not have a season ticket, single admission at the door for adults will be$1.50 and for students $1.00. The Garfield School Auditorium is large enough for us to sell 200 additional tickets this season. Your ticket purchases help support other activities of the Golden Gate Audubon Society. —MRS. FRANCES ELLEN FALLGATTER,
Audubon Wildlife Films Chairman.

COVEL'S CONSERVATION CORNER

Sensational good news for conservationists and for Americans all is the rediscovery of a small colony of the near-extinct Ivory-billed Woodpecker in East Texas, just announced in the Sept. 15th *Audubon Leader's Conservation Guide*. Timely and significant, too, was the dedication of an entire hour of prime evening TV time by a major network (NBC) to "Our Endangered Wildlife," including the Bald Eagle, Whooping Crane, Key Deer and others. But do not let these achievements by professionals lull you into a sense of false confidence or relaxation. Imminent, catastrophic defeats

confront conservationists—all users of California Outdoors—in the possible loss of an adequate Redwoods National Park, the lower Colorado River's natural resources, the fish and wildlife of the Delta and of San Francisco Bay. Next time The Roll is ealled "Up Yonder"—of eitizen voices—at Sacramento and Washington, D.C.—*will you be there?*

The Annual Meeting of The Nature Conservaney in San Francisco Sept. 8, 9 and 10 was attended by several Golden Gate Audubon offieers and members, and also Bill Goodall of the National Audubon staff. The present scope of the Conservancy's operations is most impressive: projects of the 1966-67 year numbered 64, involving 24,000 acres and $6 million, from coast to eoast. Most of the Conservaney's projects are really "reseues" of precious natural areas to be held only until a federal, state, or other agency can move to aequire ownership and permanent protection and administration. Such was their "rescue" of Kent Island in Bolinas Bay—a eause and appeal that brought in 1,000 new "projeet members."

Dr. Samuel Wright, a wilderness-loving clergyman, and Martin Litton of *Sunset Magazine* offered the Conferenee espeeially well-worded, eonvincing advice on the attitudes and roles of eonservationists vs. "progress."

The "mistaken" slaughter of 2,000 Purple Martins (thought to be Starlings) roosting on the Governor's Mansion in Missouri shows how easily such "mistakes" happen in the best places—as Missouri has an outstanding Conservation Department and edueational program! Better listen next time, Guv!—PAUL COVEL, *Conservation Chairman.*

POLLUTION AT AQUATIC PARK, BERKELEY

During the last week of September fifteen barrels of dead fish were eollected from the shores of Berkelcy's Aquatic Park—apparently killed by industrial pollution.

ALAMEDA FIELD TRIPS

About twenty-five Audubon members and friends enjoyed each of the Alameda field trips on September 14 and 16. Both groups enjoyed moderately warm and windless days. Because of tide differenees, areas covered were somewhat different and not all the 60 birds recorded were seen by both groups.

The Thursday group eoncentrated on the South Shore near the end of Broadway, where Forster's, Elegant, Caspian, and Common Terns were easily distinguished. This group spent some time on Doolittle Road on Bay Farm Island and on the road leading into the private plane section of the old Oakland Airport. Several members of the group saw an Empidonax Flycateher, and an Aeorn Woodpecker was a surprise in this area. Lunch was at Washington Park, where a Red-breasted Nuthatch was an addition.

The Saturday group walked along the South Shore from Bay Farm Island Bridge to Broadway and had a good view of waders and sandpipers. By prearrangement the group was then escorted by the Utah security guard to a viewpoint on the new Bay Farm Island fill from which resting birds could be seen in eonsiderable numbers—but far away. A concentration of about 300 unidentifiable terns was noted. Caspian terns and a single Common Murre were seen close up.

On the road leading to the old Oakland Airport the group had an excellent view of a Red-Shouldered Hawk, not previously recorded in this area. The Empidonax Flycatcher was at work, and a Mockingbird and a Loggerhead Shrike were competing for position. Several members of the party waited for the tide to recede so that they could see birds coming in to feed along Doolittle Road.

Besides the birds mentioned, the following were recorded: Eared and Pied-billed Grebes, Brown Pelican, Great Blue and Black-crowned Night Herons, Snowy Egret, Canada Geese, Mallard and Pintail Ducks, Turkey Vulture, Red-tailed and Sparrow Hawks, Semipalmated and Black-bellied Plovers, Killdeer, Black Turnstone, Long-billed Curlew, Whimbrel, Willet, Least and Western Sandpipers, Short-billed Dowitcher, Avocet.

Also Western, Herring, and Ring-billed Gulls, Mourning Dove, Anna's and Allen's Hummingbirds; Western Flycatcher, Barn Swallow, Scrub Jay, Chestnut-backed Chickadee, Bush-tit, Robin, Starling, Warbling Vireo, Orange-crowned and Yellow Warblers, House Sparrow, Meadowlark, Red-winged and Brewer's Blackbirds, House Finch, American Goldfinch, Brown Towhee, Savannah and White-crowned Sparrows.

—ELSIE ROEMER, *Leader.*

FIELD OBSERVATIONS

On their September 10th field trip, Sequoia Audubon members found a male American Redstart on the Arroyo Hondo Trail near Point Reyes Bird Observatory.

In mid-September Hans Meinhardt observed a Palm Warbler at Point Reyes lighthouse, a Philadelphia Vireo at Bodega Head, Sonoma County, and Blackpoll Warblers in the Chain of Lakes area, Golden Gate Park.

On September 21 Elsie Roemer saw a Yellow-breasted Chat in Alameda.

On September 24 Scott Terrill and Dick Erickson watched a pair of Peregrine Falcons and five Pectoral Sandpipers at Rodeo Lagoon, Fort Cronkhite.

Scott Terrill carefully noted the following field marks on a Blackpoll Warbler that appeared in his garden in Piedmont on September 28: "Two strong white wing-bars and white under-tail coverts, back dull green and some gray with thin streaks, breast yellowish with faint streaks, white belly streaked on the sides."

A successful nesting of Hooded Orioles in Berkeley was reported by Eleanor Potter, who saw the mother feeding fledglings on May 28 near Shattuck and Vine St.

NEW PROJECTS OF POINT REYES BIRD OBSERVATORY

Color-Marked Shorebirds. Dr. Richard Doutt of Mill Valley is coordinating the shorebird sightings in connection with our color-marking project at Limantour Estero. The purpose of this project is to have people in the various areas of the Point Reyes Peninsula on the days that we are netting

and banding birds to determine the daily movements of these birds. In addition, we are interested in receiving reports of any of our birds sighted anywhere in the west. Observers should be on the lookout for shorebirds (mostly "Peep" but also other species) that have a dyed breast and/or painted wing and tail feathers. Observations of these birds should be sent to PRBO and include the date, the location, and the exact color of the breast markings and the place on the tail or wing where the bird was painted and the color. We are using different places such as the left outer tail feathers, etc., to indicate the date on which the bird was banded. Anyone interested in participating, either as observers or in order to report marked birds, and wishing further details, please write to Dr. Doutt in care of Point Reyes Bird Observatory, Mesa Road, Bolinas, CA 94924.

Rare Bird Committee. Several interested ornithologists and field birders have come together with the Point Reyes Bird Observatory to form a new concept in birding for the United States—a Rare Bird Committee. This Committee, modeled on similar committees in Europe, *will tend to replace the necessity for collection of rare birds* and will thus, through careful observing, document their occurrence in California. Guy McCaskie, one of the best field birders in the state, has written recently on this matter:

"Observations of unusual birds will be submitted to the committee and the results of their judgments will be published in a new state-wide publication, *California Birds,* which will also include observations similar to Audubon *Field Notes* but in greater detail; the coordination and results of state-wide censuses on rare, endangered and otherwise interesting species of birds; and conservation issues of state-wide and local interest that would otherwise not get coverage throughout California."

The various Audubon Society branches and affiliates are especially being encouraged to become an integral part of this endeavor, and Audubon members are expected to be the primary supporters of the new publication.

—C. JOHN RALPH, *Administrative Officer, PRBO.*

PRBO REPORTS RARE BIRD SIGHTINGS

The highlight of the past two months (August and September) was undoubtedly the sighting on August 18 of an adult Scissor-tailed Flycatcher by unidentified birders from the east and reported to the Park Service, and then to Point Reyes Bird Observatory. The bird was at the RCA station near the lighthouse and was confirmed on the 19th by Natalie Mestechin of Santa Rosa and on the 20th by scores of persons including Richard Stallcup, Alice Williams, and Grace Miller. The bird was last seen on the 29th by C. J. Ralph and was in heavy molt.

The Black Rails have again been seen several times by Jerry Brady and others at the Inverness Motel where they are probably nesting.

Baird's Sandpipers turned up on Limantour on the 14th of August and are seen almost every day in the Observatory's censuses by Phil Lenna. Some have also appeared on Bolinas Lagoon. Two Saw-whet Owls, both juveniles, were banded at the Observatory on August 19th and on September 3.

A Bald Eagle adult was seen at Inverness Motel by Jerry Brady on the 21st and 22nd of August. On September 8 a White-winged Dove, the second record for the Point Reyes Peninsula, was seen by Henry Robert near the Observatory, and on the 10th he saw a Lark Bunting on Mesa Road one mile east of the Observatory. On the 15th an Orchard Oriole, the first record for the peninsula, was banded. On the 19th two Eastern Flycatchers were seen by Richard Stallcup near the Mendoza Ranch, a Northern Waterthrush and a Harris' Sparrow at the old Observatory location. On the 25th two Red-eyed Vireos were seen at RCA by Dave DeSante and Ted Chandik, and a Prairie Warbler by Phil Lenna near Schooner Bay. The latter bird was still present on the 30th and seen by Richard Stallcup and Dave DeSante—also three Tennessee Warblers, two American Redstarts and a Red-eyed Vireo.

A reconnaissance trip was made by PRBO personnel to the Farallon Islands on Sept. 20-26 by Henry Robert, Richard Stallcup, and C. J. Ralph primarily to work on the breeding Cassin's Auklets and Ashy Petrels. During the week, however, their attention was distracted by a wave of migrants on the 23rd-25th. During the week a total of 118 species was seen, including a probable Great Crested Flycatcher (awaiting confirmation from photographs). Twenty-one species of warblers were observed (19 banded) including Tennessee, Parula, Magnolia, Chestnut-sided, Blackpoll (an amazing 12 banded), Prairie, Palm, Northern Waterthrush and American Redstart. Also observed, in what must have been the most productive vagrant week in California birding, were Pectoral Sandpiper, Sage Thrasher. Bobolink, Orchard Oriole, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Dickcissel, Green-tailed Towhee, Vesper Sparrow, Black-throated Sparrow, Slate-colored Junco, Clay-colored Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, and Lapland Longspur. PRBO plans to man the islands full-time next year if it can raise the necessary funds to carry out research on the endangered breeding birds and will, if possible, assess migrant occurrences.

C. JOHN RALPH, *Administrative Officer, PRBO.*

CHRISTMAS COUNT—Plans are under way for the annual Oakland Christmas Count and the joint Tomales Bay Count with Marin Audubon. As soon as the plans are definite, information will be mailed to those who participated in last year's count. Persons who did not participate last year but would like to do so this year, may send name, address, and phone number to Golden Gate Audubon Society, Christmas Count, P.O. Box 103, Berkeley, CA 94701.

REMINDER—California Gulls wearing orange tags with numbers and symbols should be reported to Prof. K. L. Diem, Dept. of Zoology, Univ. of Wyoming, Laramie, Wyo. 82070.

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome these new members to our Society: From *Berkeley*, Nedra Belloc, Mrs. LeRoy Burton, David C. Hansen, William Ireland, Lawrence Lawler, George Liedholm, Mrs. Elizabeth Nield, Klepper Rentz, Kristin Roper. From *San Francisco*, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Conrath, Mr. and Mrs. Milton Gilmore, Mrs. Lawrence Heinle, Norman Hutchings, Roger Kniss,

Nelli Lee, Frances Roffeld, Edith Witt. From *Hayward,* Sylvan Raphael, M. D. From *Kensington,* Mrs. David Edgar & Family. From *Lafayette,* Carlton & Territa Lowenberg & Family. From *Napa,* Robert Tellefsen. From *Sacramento,* Mr. and Mrs. George Osborne.

—MRS. ZELLA CUSHMAN,*Membership Secretary.*

HAWAIIAN BIRD TRIPS for 1968 have been planned by Walter R. Donaghho, field trip leader for the 1966 Audubon post-convention tour of Hawaii. He will arrange Landrover safaris for small parties on a share-cost basis. For broehures and further information write to Mr. Donaghho, P.O. Box 10285, Honolulu, Hawaii 96816. Tour dates have been set for Jan. 6, Feb. 10, May 4, July 13, and August 10, and a yacht cruise is being planned for Easter Vacation.

IN MEMORIAM—IVANDER MacIVER

Golden Gate Audubon Soeiety has lost a long-time aetive member—Ivander Maelver. She joined our Golden Gate branch in 1939 and served as Treasurer and Board Member for many years. Miss Maelver was well known as the Head of the Gifts and Exehange Dept. of the University of California Library from 1945 until her retirement in 1958. She remained an active member of Golden Gate Audubon and eontributed to Audubon Canyon Ranch until her death this year on August 7.

AUDUBON CANYON RANCH, BOLINAS LAGOON

Under joint sponsorship of Golden Gate and Marin Audubon Societies to protect a major rookery of Common Egrets and Great Blue Herons.

The following gifts of remembrance were made to Canyon Ranch:

In Memory of:	*Gift of*:
Louis Elmore	Mr. & Mrs. Milton Tait
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—DR. ALBERT BOLES, *Sanctuary & Memorial Fund Chairman*
854 Longridge Rd., Oakland CA 94610

Golden Gate Audubon's publieation, THE CYGNET, introduces children to natural scienee and conservation in the West. For a year's subscription send $1 to Mrs. Nickelsburg, Editor, 2585 Union St., San Francisco, CA 94123.

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Established January 25, 1917 A Branch of the National Audubon Society since 1948

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Claims for missing numbers of THE GULL should be sent to the Editor. Changes of address should be sent to the Membership Secretary.

Monthly meetings second Thursday, 7:30 p.m. Joint Membership, Local and National $8.50 per year, Includes AUDUBON MAGAZINE and THE GULL. Subscription to THE GULL separately $2.00 per year.

The *Gull* deadline is the first of the month for the following month.